(b) No

(c) Does not arise.

(d) India is in touch with the relevant UN agencies for the early delivery of the aid to Iraq.

Pak Prime Minister's Statement

5037. DR. AKHILESH DAS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the unprovoked statement by the Pakistani Prime Minister in the first week of April, 2003, that Islamabad would retaliate with "full force" if New Delhi carried out any pre-emptive strike' adding that "the people of Pakistan and the armed forces will give a befitting reply";

(b) whether this statement in the back-drop of the Nadimarg massacre of 25 Kashmiri Pandits and the reported concentration of militants and the mercenaries along the J&K borders along the Line of Control have infused a fresh thinking by Government on the question of dealing with cross border terrorism; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have been continuously taking appropriate and effective steps, both on the ground and at diplomatic level, in order to curb the menace of cross border terrorism and infiltration into India.

Prime Minister during his visit to Srinagar from April 18 to April 19, 2003 has once again extended the hand of friendship to Pakistan and at the same time he reiterated in Srinagar and the two houses of the Parliament (April 23 & 24, 2003) that stopping cross border infiltration and destruction of terrorist infrastructure was essential for opening the doors for talks.

In his statement in Parliament on 2nd May 2003, Prime Minister said that a conducive atmosphere for a sustained dialogue with Pakistan necessarily requires an end to cross border terrorism and the dismantling of terrorist infrastructure by Pakistan.

Government is firmly committed to fight the menace of cross border infiltration and terrorism directed against the country till it is decisively eliminated.